



5-Step Safe Outlet Inspection

Before Ant Treatment

✓ Do not skip any step – your safety comes first

★ By Alex Carter – Pest Free Gone



⚠ **CRITICAL DANGER WARNING**

If you see brown discoloration on the outlet, smell a burning odor (like burnt hair) or a fishy smell → **DO NOT DIY**. Call a licensed electrician immediately. These are signs of internal arcing.



FIVE STEPS TO SAFETY



STEP 1 – TURN OFF THE MAIN CIRCUIT BREAKER

- ✓ Turn off the **main breaker** (NOT just the branch breaker).
- ✓ Make sure the entire house has no power. Place a warning sign on the panel.



STEP 2 – TEST WITH A NON-CONTACT VOLTAGE TESTER

- ✓ Insert the tester into **each slot** of the outlet.
- ✓ If it beeps or lights up → the outlet is still LIVE. Re-check your breaker.
- ✓ Only proceed when the tester is **completely silent and dark**.



STEP 3 – MEASURE WITH A DIGITAL MULTIMETER (if available)

- ✓ Switch to AC voltage mode. Measure between hot–neutral and hot–ground → both must read **0 V**.
- ✓ Switch to DC voltage mode to discharge any remaining capacitors. Wait a few seconds.
- ✓ This takes 2 minutes – it can save your life.



STEP 4 – BORESCOPE INSPECTION (if you have a USB endoscope)

- ✓ Gently insert a USB borescope through the faceplate screw hole or a small gap.
- ✓ Look for: pheromone trails, larvae, burn marks, moisture, or cotton-like debris.
- ✓ If you see **burnt plastic or melted wire insulation** → **STOP and CALL AN ELECTRICIAN**.



STEP 5 – CONFIRM DRY & TREATMENT-READY

- ✓ Shine a flashlight inside: the box must be completely dry, no metal dust, no moisture.
- ✓ If the outlet is wet from a water leak → fix the leak FIRST.
- ✓ Only when all 5 steps are clear can you remove the faceplate and apply ant gel on an **insulating plastic tray** (e.g., cut from a water bottle). Never apply liquid gel directly on wires.

⚡️🚫 **THREE ABSOLUTE DON'TS** 🚫⚡️

🚫 **DON'T spray liquid Terro / liquid insecticides into a live outlet**

Why: These liquids are electrically conductive (resistance under 50 kOhm). They cause instant short circuits, sparks, and potential house fires.

🚫 **DON'T use diatomaceous earth or compressed air blowers**

Why: Diatomaceous earth becomes slightly conductive when humidity exceeds 70%. Compressed air shoves metal dust deep into the outlet, causing arcing when power is restored.

🚫 **DON'T open an outlet without testing with a voltage tester first**

Why: Even with the branch breaker off, backfeed from another circuit or stored capacitor charge (especially on USB outlets) can deliver a painful or deadly shock.

🧰 **PRO TIPS – LONG-TERM PREVENTION**

- ✓ Every 6 months: use this checklist again to clean pheromones (70% isopropyl alcohol) and inspect for new trails.
- ✓ Always place ant gel (Advion, Optigard) on a small insulating PET plastic tray – never directly on wires or terminals.
- ✓ Stuff **copper mesh** around the wire entry point inside the junction box (keep it away from bare terminals) – ants cannot chew through copper.
- ✓ Install foam gaskets behind outlet faceplates to seal air gaps and block pheromone spread.

📄 Print this page & hang it near your breaker panel

⚡️ Always prioritize a licensed electrician if you see burn marks

 *"A battle-tested, science-backed protocol to eliminate household ants forever — without toxic chemical sprays, structural damage, or paying \$300 to pest control companies."*



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 Based on real field tests by Alex Carter (Pest Free Gone). This checklist is for informational purposes only. If you are unsure about any step, or if your home has aluminum wiring, significant damage, or persistent arcing signs, call a professional electrician.
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